

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A soft-sided insulated container assembly comprising:
a lower portion having
5 a rectangular base having a pair of long edges and a pair of short edges;
soft-sided insulated front and rear walls attached to, and extending upwardly from, said long edges,
soft-sided insulated end walls attached to, and extending upwardly
10 from, said short sides,
said front and rear walls and said end walls co-operating with said base to define said lower portion;
an upper portion mounted above said lower portion, said upper portion having
a pair of end walls, each of said end walls having a lower margin
15 mounted adjacent to one of said end walls of said lower portion, and an upper edge, said upper edge having a downwardly concave arcuate profile, and
a soft-sided insulated spanning wall extending between said end walls
of said upper portion, said spanning wall conforming to said
20 concave arcuate profile.
2. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 1 wherein :
said front, rear and end walls of said lower portion have respective upper
margins;
25 said spanning wall of said upper portion has front and rear lower margins; and
said lower portion is joined to said upper portion by a hinge, said hinge being
connected to said upper margin of said rear wall of said lower portion
and to said rear lower margin of said spanning wall of said upper
portion.
3. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 1 wherein said container
has a center of gravity and has a suspension member attached thereto at a location
above said center of gravity whereby, when carried by said suspension member, said
lower portion will hang below said upper portion.

4. The soft-sided, insulated container assembly of claim 1 wherein said spanning wall has a crest, and said container has a handle mounted along said crest, whereby, when carried by said handle said lower portion is below said upper portion.

5. A soft sided insulated container assembly comprising:
a first insulated container portion, a second insulated container portion and a common wall shared between said first and second container portions;
said first container portion having a first insulated wall structure and a first chamber defined therewithin;
said second container portion having a second insulated wall structure and a second chamber defined therewithin;
said common wall being a partition member segregating said first and second chambers from each other, said partition member having a first closure member mounted thereto operable to control access to said first chamber, and having a second closure member mounted thereto operable to control access to said second chamber;
said common wall having an edge and a hinge mounted along said edge, said hinge permitting said first container portion to move relative to said second container portion; and
said first chamber being maintainable at a different environmental condition from that of said second chamber.

6. The soft sided collapsible container of claim 5 wherein one of said insulated container portions has a liner for containing liquids mounted within its respective chamber.

7. The soft sided container of claim 5 wherein said common wall has a receptacle mounted thereto, said receptacle having an interior for receiving a thermal energy storage element, said receptacle having a vented portion to permit air from one of said chambers to communicate with said interior.

8. The soft sided container of claim 5 wherein said container has a receptacle for receiving a thermal energy storage element, said receptacle being mounted within one of said chambers, and a thermal energy storage element mounted therein.

9. The soft-sided container of claim 8 wherein said receptacle is mounted to said common wall.

10. The soft-sided container of claim 5 wherein said first wall structure has an opening defined therein to give access to said first chamber, and said common wall is moveable from a first position closing said opening of said first chamber, to a second position permitting access to said first chamber, said common wall having a periphery corresponding to said opening of said first chamber, said first closure member being mounted to at least a portion of said periphery and to said first wall structure about at least a portion of said opening of said first chamber, said closure member being operable to control opening of said common wall relative to said first chamber.

11. The soft-sided container of claim 5 wherein said partition includes a thermally insulative layer for discouraging heat transfer through said partition.

12. The soft-sided container of claim 11 wherein said partition has a receptacle mounted thereto for receiving a thermal energy storage element, said receptacle has venting wall oriented toward one of said first and second chambers, and, when a thermal storage element is mounted in said receptacle, air from said one chamber can communicate therewith through said venting.

13. The soft-sided container of claim 5 wherein:
said first chamber is a lower chamber, said second chamber is an upper chamber, and said partition is located above said first chamber, said partition being moveable to open and close said first chamber;
said partition is located below said second chamber, said partition being moveable to open and close said second chamber;
said partition has an upper face upon which, in use, objects can rest;
said receptacle has a lower face, and a receptacle mounted adjacent to said lower face, said receptacle being exposed to said first chamber; and
said partition has a peripheral wall extending about said upper face for discouraging said objects from being displaced from said upper face in use.

14. The soft-sided, insulated container of claim 5 wherein:
said first insulated wall structure has a bottom wall, a front wall, a rear wall
and first and second end walls co-operating to form a five sided, open
topped rectangular box;

5 said second insulated wall structure has a pair of end walls, each of said end
walls having a downwardly concave profile, and a spanning wall
extending between said end walls and conforming to said downwardly
concave profile.

10 15. A soft-sided container assembly comprising:
a first insulated wall structure having a primary chamber defined therewithin;
a second insulated wall structure having a secondary chamber defined
therewithin;
said second insulated structure being removably locatable within said first
15 insulated wall structure;
said primary structure having a receptacle mounted therewithin for containing
a thermal energy storage element, said receptacle being vented to
permit air exchange between said first chamber and said receptacle.

20 16. The soft-sided container assembly of claim 15 wherein said primary structure
has a first portion, a second portion, and a closure member operable to permit said
first portion to be displaced relative to said second portion, thereby giving access to a
first volume defined within said first portion, and a second volume defined within said
second portion, and said primary structure has a divider mounted between said first
25 and second portions.

17. The soft-sided container assembly of claim 16 wherein said divider is
suspended between said first and second volumes, and has a receptacle mounted
thereto for receiving a thermal energy storage element.

30 18. The soft-sided container assembly of claim 16 wherein said divider is
releasably attachable to said primary structure along at least a portion thereof, said
divider being moveable between an open position for facilitating access to said second
volume.

19. The soft-sided container assembly of claim 16 wherein:
said first portion is a lower portion of said structure having a rectangular base
wall and an upstanding wall having front, rear, left and right hand side
portions extending upwardly of said base;
5 said second portion is an upper portion having a pair of ends and a
longitudinal member extending between said ends, said longitudinal
member having a lower rear edge;
said upper portion being hingedly attached to an upper edge of said rear side
portion and to said lower rear edge of said longitudinal member;
10 said primary structure includes a divider suspended between said first and
second portions, said divider being moveable to facilitate access to said
first portion; and said divider having said receptacle mounted in a
suspended position relative thereto.

15 20. The soft sided container of claim 15 wherein said first and second insulated
wall structures are attachable to each other to discourage relative movement
therebetween in use.

21. A soft-sided insulated container assembly, comprising:
20 an first soft-sided insulated wall structure having a rectangular base, and
rectangular sides extending upwardly from said rectangular base, said
first insulated wall structure having a first insulated chamber defined
therewithin;
a second soft-sided insulated wall structure having a pair of end walls, said
25 end walls having upper margins defining a lid contour, and a
longitudinal wall extending between said end walls and conforming to
said lid contour, said second insulated wall structure defining a second
insulated chamber therewithin;
said second insulated wall structure being locatable above said first insulated
30 wall structure; and
an insulated divider mounted between said first and second insulated wall
structures to segregate said first chamber from said second chamber.

22. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 21 wherein said second
35 soft-sided insulated wall structure is pivotally mounted relative to said first soft-sided
insulated wall structure.

23. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 21 wherein:
said end walls have respective first and second lower margins;
said longitudinal panel has a front lower margin and a rear lower margin; and
5 said first, second, front and rear margins define an opening of said second chamber.
24. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 23 wherein:
said assembly has a hinge mounted to said rear lower margin and a closure
10 mounted to said divider and to said first, second and front margins; and
said closure member is operable to permit said second chamber to be opened relative to said divider.
25. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 21 wherein said divider
15 has a receptacle mounted thereto, and a thermal energy storage element mounted therein.
26. The soft sided receptacle of claim 21 wherein said divider has an upwardly
20 facing surface and a peripheral retainer mounted to said upwardly facing surface.
27. A soft sided insulated container assembly, comprising:
a first soft-sided insulated wall structure;
a second soft-sided insulated wall structure having a pair of end walls, said
end walls having upper margins defining a lid contour, and a
25 longitudinal wall extending between said end walls and conforming to said lid contour;
said second soft-sided insulated wall structure being locatable above said first soft-sided insulated wall structure, said first and second soft-sided insulated wall structures co-operating to define a first chamber
30 therewithin;
a closure member mounted to said first and second soft-sided insulated wall structures, said closure member being operable to permit displacement of said first soft-sided insulated wall structure relative to said second soft-sided insulated wall structure to give access to said first chamber;
35 and

a third soft-sided insulated wall structure defining a second chamber
therewithin, said third soft-sided insulated wall structure having a
closure member operable to give access to said second chamber;
said third soft-sided insulated wall structure being locatable within said first
5 chamber; and
said third soft-sided insulated wall structure being removable from within said
first chamber.

28. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 27 wherein:

10 said first soft-sided insulated wall structure has a rectangular base, and
rectangular sides extending upwardly from said rectangular base;
said longitudinal wall has a crest along the uppermost portion thereof; and
said assembly has a suspension member mounted thereto by which said
assembly can be carried, and, when carried by said suspension
15 member, said crest is above said base.

29. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 28 wherein said
suspension member is chosen from the set of suspension members consisting of:

- 20 (a) a handle mounted to said longitudinal member; and
(b) a carrying strap mounted to said second soft-sided insulated
wall structure.

30. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 27 wherein said third
soft-sided insulated structure has a releasable attachment element operable to
25 discourage motion of said third soft-sided insulated wall structure relative to said
chamber when mounted therewithin.

31. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 30 wherein said
releasable attachment element is a hook-and-eye fabric strip, said chamber has an
30 internal wall, and said internal wall has a mating hook-and-eye fabric strip mounted
thereto.

32. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 27 wherein said first
soft-sided insulated wall structure defines a first portion of said first chamber, and
35 said second soft-sided insulated wall structure defines a second portion of said first

chamber, and said third soft-sided insulated wall structure is mountable within said first portion of said first chamber.

33. The soft-sided container assembly of claim 27 wherein:
5 said first soft-sided insulated wall structure has an upper peripheral margin;
said second soft-sided insulated wall structure has a lower peripheral margin;
said first and second soft-sided insulated wall structures are joined by a hinge
mounted along respective portions of said upper peripheral margin and
10 said lower peripheral margin, said hinge being operable to permit
pivotal motion of said second soft-sided insulated wall structure
relative to said first soft-sided insulated wall structure in the manner of
a hinged lid; and
said closure member being mounted to other respective portions of said upper
and lower peripheral margins.

34. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 33 wherein:
said first chamber includes a first portion defined within said first soft-sided
insulated wall structure, and a second portion defined within said
second soft-sided insulated wall structure;
20 a flap is suspended between said first and second portions, said flap being
moveable to facilitate access to at least one of said portions.

35. The soft-sided insulated container assembly of claim 34 wherein said flap has
a pocket mounted thereto and a thermal energy storage element contained therein.